

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** Fist Of The North Star: Ken's Rage

**Other known title(s):** Ken's Rage: Fist Of The North Star  
Hokuto Musou

**OFLC ref:** 1100849.000

**Medium:** Console Game

**Distributor:** Bouncingzombies Limited

**Country of origin:** Japan

**Language:** English

**Applicant:** Secretary for Internal Affairs

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Classification:</b> | Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. |
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**Excisions:** No excisions recommended

**Descriptive note:** Contains violence.

**Display conditions:** None

**Date of entry in Register:** 31 August 2011

**Date of direction to issue a label:** 30 August 2011

|                     | Components                         | Running time |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Game:               | Fist of the North Star: Ken's Rage |              |
| Total running time: |                                    |              |

### Summary of reasons for decision:

The game is a third-person perspective, gated level “beat ‘em up” adventure game produced for use on the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 console units. It was submitted for classification by the Secretary for Internal Affairs under s13(1)(b) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The game was submitted because, despite not having been classified in New Zealand, it was being sold on the online auction site Trade Me (with the British R18 classification label

visible).

The game is the sixth instalment in a series that is based on the popular 1980s Japanese fantasy manga comic series 'Fist Of The North Star'. The series is set in a futuristic post-nuclear apocalyptic dystopia and follows the heroic protagonist Kenshiro, who fights evil henchmen known as Zeed.

The game depicts the infliction of serious physical harm to a high extent, with the majority of the gameplay spent engaged in frenetic combat against human adversaries. However, the game's treatment of violence and cruelty is balanced by the clear science fiction/fantasy premise (set in a post-apocalyptic dystopia), and the supernatural and hyper-real manner of the violence.

The unrestricted availability of the game is likely to be injurious to the public good given the manner the way in which it deals with matters of violence. The game's depictions of serious physical harm is likely to shock and disturb some children and younger teenagers, and for others have the effect of trivialising violence by presenting it as entertaining, exciting and rewarding. The likelihood of injury to the public good will be avoided by restricting the publication to people who have attained the age of 16 years.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the application of all the classification criteria. The limitation applied on the publication's availability is the minimum restriction that can be applied in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.